

FACT SHEET: SB 630

AUTHORS: SENATOR FRAN PAVLEY AND DARRELL STEINBERG TAHOE COMPACT RESTORATION ACT OF 2013

AUGUST 6, 2013

THE PROBLEM

Nevada and California have negotiated a “peace treaty” that allows both states to remain active members and partners in the Tahoe Regional Planning Compact. This bill contains the terms of that compromise which is exactly duplicated in a bill on the Nevada side, SB 229, and which has been signed by Governor Sandoval.

BACKGROUND

A law adopted in Nevada in 2010, SB 271, demanded that the voting structure of TRPA be changed to accommodate more development in the Tahoe Basin and that an updated regional plan be adopted. That law said that Nevada would withdraw from the bi-state compact if California did not change its laws to reflect the changes demanded by Nevada.

An updated regional plan was adopted in December, 2012. The new regional plan was successfully developed through a formal bi-state consultation process.

The changes in the voting structure would have weakened conservation protections in the Tahoe Basin and were not acceptable to California.

To have a backup plan in case Nevada really did withdraw from the compact, SB 630 originally provided that California would re-establish a stand-alone California Tahoe Regional Planning Agency. That provision has been deleted in the current version of the bill that reflects the bi-state compromise.

In addition, SB 630 contains a provision important to both states that would provide increased budget transparency by the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency which receives funds from both states. The bill would also authorize both states to create a bi-state science advisory body and the bill would fund that body and other environmental projects in the Tahoe Basin through funds paid from leases of piers at Lake Tahoe paid by landowners. Those funds are subject to appropriation by the Legislature.

TERMS OF COMPROMISE

Under the compromise, California would accept two provisions from SB 271 in Nevada: One is that in any lawsuit against TRPA, the plaintiffs have the burden of proof. The second is that TRPA shall take economic considerations into account when implementing the regional plan.

California would drop the proposal in the original version of this bill that would have recreated a California-only Tahoe Regional Planning Agency.

JOINT AUTHORS

Senators Steinberg and Gaines

SUPPORT

League to Save Lake Tahoe
California Attorney General

OPPOSE

Sierra Club (unless amended)

